



April 11, 2014

This week's edition includes important information I want to share with you:

- **Fiscal Year 2014-2015 DIDD Budget Approved by the General Assembly:** Yesterday, the General Assembly passed HB2501, commonly known as the Appropriations Bill. This bill funds all state government operational programs, including the supports that are so important to the people we serve. Some of the key adjustments to DIDD administered programs affected by this legislation are:

Cost Increases

- Home and Community-Based Waiver Growth – Net increase in the number of people receiving residential, day services, case management and therapies by 100 people projected to be enrolled due to their crisis status [\$2,456,700]
- Targeted HCBS Private Provider Rates– Rate increase equivalent to 1% of the DIDD administered HCBS program targeted to services where providers struggle to meet their costs [\$2,215,300]
- Clover Bottom to Middle Tennessee Homes Transition (Non-Recurring) – One-time costs for the phased opening of four-person homes located in the community while phasing out operations at the Clover Bottom Developmental Center to be completed by May 2015 [\$1,713,500]
- Five or More Person Homes Rate Increase – 10% rate increase for group home residential services enabling providers to meet their costs so current residents may continue to choose to live in these homes [\$351,200]
- Developmental Disabilities Services Planning – Costs for two state positions to review national trends in developmental disabilities services options, assess services desired, plan for a developmental disabilities service delivery system, and function as DIDD's point of contact for developmental disabilities [\$183,900]
- Utility Expenses – Expenditures on this transforming campus after the Clover Bottom Developmental Center is closed [\$573,100]
- Community Homes Certification (Non-Recurring) – One-time costs for the first 30 days of operation prior to home certification [\$158,600]

Cost Reductions

- Council on Developmental Disabilities – Reduce cost of operation for this federally required council [\$24,100]
- Centralization of Fiscal and Human Resources – Reduce positions from efficiencies gained by the centralization of these two areas of administration [\$74,200]

- Developmental Center and Public Homes – Match staffing with reduced census at Greene Valley Developmental Center and continue cost efficiency efforts at the state operated homes [\$1,747,800]
- Miscellaneous Central Office Positions – Reduce positions and other operational expenditures in the central office [\$485,000]
- Resource Centers – Reduce positions and other operational expenditures at the three resource centers located in East, Middle, and West Tennessee [\$592,100]
- Community Services Contracts – Reduce budgeted contracts ensuring contractors supplement state staff efficiently [\$136,800]
- Miscellaneous Regional Office Costs – Reduce administrative positions and operational costs in the three regional offices in East, Middle, and West Tennessee including the elimination of the Arlington Court Monitor contract [\$1,306,800]
- State Funded Services – Reduce the budgeted allocation by 30.78% for state wrap around services from \$6,360,700 to \$4,403,000. These supplementary funds facilitate residents living in the community [\$1,957,700]
- New Waiver Cap – Institute an individual expense cap on all people enrolling into services beginning January 1, 2015 [\$79,800]

In addition, those with qualifying disabilities may continue to receive aid through the Family Support Program. This program is fully funded in the just passed Appropriations Bill.

I am very pleased our work with the General Assembly over the past two months has been successful and the General Assembly's support for DIDD has proven so strong. This legislation provides for a fiscal year 2014-2015 budget for DIDD administered programs that meets the needs of people we serve while also continuing efforts to gain cost efficiencies in service delivery. Thank you for all of the support you have given me and the department during this process and I appreciate our continued work supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **Autism Awareness Events and Resources:** Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) has created a webpage dedicated to Autism Awareness Month and related events happening around Nashville during April. Click [here](#) to view the website.

The Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (CSESA) is excited to announce the availability of its newest resource, the Understanding Autism Professional Development Curriculum. Created in collaboration with the Organization for Autism Research (OAR), this comprehensive tool provides middle and high school teachers with the foundational knowledge and evidence-based strategies they need to support students with Autism in their classrooms. These materials may also be beneficial for those new to working with young adults with Autism. The materials include two 75-minute training presentations (to be used together or separately), with video clips, participant handouts, activity worksheets and facilitator notes. Click [here](#) to view the curriculum.

- **Olmstead Enforcement:** On April 8, 2014, the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division stated the U.S. entered into the nation's first statewide settlement agreement vindicating the civil rights of persons with disabilities who are unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs. The settlement agreement with the State of Rhode Island resolves the Civil Rights Division's January 6, 2014 findings as part of an ADA Olmstead investigation that the state's day activity service system overrelies on segregated

settings including sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs, to the exclusion of integrated alternatives such as supported employment and integrated day services. To access settlement agreement details and the Letter of Findings, click [here](#). Coverage of the story is also available [here](#).

The United States Department of Justice's settlement with Rhode Island clearly articulates the federal government's position regarding community employment and day services. If your agency is interested in participating in the *Employment First* initiative, please contact Amy Gonzalez, State Director of Employment and Day Services, at Amy.Gonzalez@tn.gov or 615-532-6119.

- **East Planning and Policy Council (EPPC):** The EPPC will meet April 17 from 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. EST at 9111 Cross Park Drive, Suite D-100 in Knoxville. This meeting is open to the public, space permitting. For additional information or if you require ADA assistance, please contact Marla Stair-Wood at 865-588-0508, extension 119.
- **Employment Success Story:** TJ has a great attitude and gives his all in everything he does. He has a successful history of working in Chattanooga's recycling program and demonstrated his competencies as an employee and team member. However, his ultimate employment desire has been to work in a warehouse, managing inventory and maintaining a work area. When he began Orange Grove's *Discovery* process, it became apparent TJ has a wealth of interpersonal and interactive proficiencies. He is known on a first-name basis by every CARTA driver in Hamilton County, which serves as the public transportation system for Chattanooga. He has many friends and continues to enjoy meeting new people.

As he shared his negotiables and non-negotiables during the *Discovery* process, it was extremely clear TJ desired to reduce reliance on others, become more independent and find an economic opportunity that would meet his interests and allow him to pursue a hobby of attending car shows and viewing antique vehicles. He has always desired contributing to a company that would match these needs. TJ and his team collaborated with Chattanooga employer Coker Tire to negotiate employment terms and logistics required for a perfect match to happen. Coker Tire company is the world's largest supplier of specialty tires for antique, classic, muscle cars, trucks, motorcycles and collector cars. Many of their tires and wheels can be found on cars and trucks displayed in car museums around the world.



When TJ and company president, Mr. Coker, first met they had an instant bond. Coker Tire immediately demonstrated a commitment to TJ as a new team member and part of the Coker family. TJ was promptly given an ample supply of Coker logo shirts that he wears proudly every day. He works five days a week, eight hours a day and earns above the minimum wage. TJ works in the main warehouse where he participates in inventory control, storage, facility maintenance, equipment upkeep and housekeeping. He has been welcomed as a full team member, established relationships with his co-workers and has become part of the Coker employee family. He enjoys his work and his interest in cool cars continues to grow.

- **All-Inclusive Playground:** In 2012, brothers Cayden and Conner Long were profiled in *Open Line* for being named *Sports Illustrated* “Sports Kids of the Year.” Cayden, 8, was born with cerebral palsy and frequently competes alongside Conner, 10, in children’s triathlons. In honor of the Long brothers, Miracle Recreation has donated an all-inclusive playground to White House, Tennessee. Prior to its construction, Miracle Recreation asked Conner and a panel of six other children for help in selecting all the equipment. The story was covered in local media and available in its entirety [here](#). Thanks to Elaine Broyles, H.A.T.S. Family Support Coordinator, for sharing it with us. The playground’s grand opening is Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. at White House Municipal Park (420 State Highway 76).
- **Policy Publication Notice:** The following policy has been uploaded to the DIDD Policies and Procedures home page on the Internet: 80.5.2 Housing Cost Subsidy. If maintaining hard copies of policies, then please replace the previous version of policy 80.5.2 with the current version. The policy can be obtained [here](#) and is also attached for your reference.
- **Adaptive Leisure Day:** The Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital is sponsoring this free event on April 12 from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Belmont University’s Sports Science Center in Nashville (2110 Belmont Boulevard). The event’s purpose is to promote “leisure” and “play” (Occupational Therapy terms meaning recreation) as a meaningful occupation for persons with disabilities. All healthcare professionals, persons with disabilities and their family members, or anyone interested in learning more about programs available within the Nashville community are welcome to attend. Area organizations will have information booths and provide demonstrations on services they offer. Vendors will vary from adaptive sports, art, music, kayaking and much more! Additionally, music by Markus Fox, Mr. Chris Hip Hop Studio, Craig Morrison and South Hollow will be provided. Pappy’s Mobile Café will also be on site for those who wish to purchase lunch.
- **2014 Revolutionary Leaders Series:** Beginning April 23 via live videoconferencing, ten (10) nationally recognized leaders in the intellectual and developmental disabilities field will present on a broad range of topics impacting people with disabilities to include restraint and seclusion, the ADA Legacy Project and ending employment segregation, among other topics. The series will occur on a weekly basis from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. EST and conclude June 25. Webinars are \$18 per session or \$175 for a series package. For more information or to register, click [here](#).
- **Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) Training:** A reminder DIDD, TN Career Centers, Workforce Essentials, Inc. and South Central Workforce Alliance, are bringing Subject Matter Experts from the Social Security Administration’s PASS cadre to provide training on PASS Plans and Work Incentives for persons with disabilities who receive Social Security (SSI/ SSDI) or concurrent benefits. The training will be held May 7 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Northfield Workforce Development and Conference Center (5700 Main St, Spring Hill, 37174). Space is limited to 50 and participants are requested to bring their own lunch. To register, click [here](#). Please contact Suzy Pruitt, Disability Resource Coordinator, at 615-337-8169 for more information.
- **LEAD Center Employment Series Webinar:** There are new challenges and opportunities for federal contractors as a result of requirements of the Section 503 final rule. Building an inclusive workforce provides new opportunities for American Job Centers (AJCs) and the workforce development system to provide assistance to federal contractors and job seekers with disabilities. What role can AJCs play to create a talent pool? What services needed by federal contractors can AJCs offer? What do other community partners need to know to promote employment

opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities? Learn more about Section 503 requirements and value-added opportunities for all key stakeholders on April 23 from 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EST. Click [here](#) for registration. All LEAD Center webinars are captioned and presentation materials are sent to participants in advance of the webinar. For any other reasonable accommodation requests, please contact Brittany Taylor at btaylor@ndi-inc.org.

- **Employment First Community of Practice Webinars:** Please join Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Thomas Macy and Nancy Gurney on May 12 for a session on organizational assessment, diversifying funding streams and collecting data to measure progress from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST. To RSVP, please contact Betty Chester at Betty.Chester@tn.gov by May 5 at 4:00 p.m. CST.

In addition, Doug Crandell (SME) will facilitate a webinar on promoting evidence-based practices in Supported Employment, leveraging social capital and expanding the use of Customized Employment strategies on June 2 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST. To RSVP, contact Betty by May 26 at 4:00 p.m. CST. Registration for both webinars is limited to 25 participants and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Be safe and have a great weekend!

~Debbie